

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement in response to H.R. 1745, legislation offered by the House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI). The legislation would allow states to do away with federal unemployment compensation programs that assist unemployed Americans:

"This is yet another attempt by the Republican-led House majority to undermine the interests of the American people. Rather than propose a single bill that would actually promote job creation – something that the American people and economy desperately need – the Republicans have introduced a bill with the word 'Jobs' in the title that in fact won't create one single job.

"They have already drastically cut funding for vital programs that assist those in need. This legislation shows the Republicans' true colors – going back on their word to extend unemployment benefits that were agreed upon in December. That deal was made after Republicans held unemployment compensation ransom in order to ensure tax cuts for the wealthy. Now, a mere five months later, the Republican House majority is intent on breaking this promise for those who are most in need while continuing to support the interests of the wealthiest in this nation.

"This has nothing to do with deficit reduction and everything to do with Republican efforts to demolish the past century's social compact, redistributing wealth to the richest, and tailoring government to serve the needs of the most privileged. This legislation is beyond reprehensible. Beating-up on struggling Americans will not fix the enormous challenges facing our economy, and shame on the Republicans for refusing to acknowledge what is plain to all Americans. I will continue to fight against such misguided efforts which will only hurt this nation, and instead focus on creating jobs to help struggling Americans get back on their feet."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

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